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BEFORE THE  
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE HEARING

House Redistricting Committee Hearing held  
on Sunday, August 29, 2021, at the hour of  
10:15 a.m., conducted by Chairwoman  
Theresa Mah, via Zoom Teleconferencing.

ATTENDEES:

- SPOKESPERSON TIM BUTLER
- REPRESENTATIVE AVERY BOURNE
- REPRESENTATIVE KELLY BURKE
- REPRESENTATIVE JEHAN GORDON-BOOTH
- REPRESENTATIVE JEFF KEICHER
- REPRESENTATIVE RYAN SPAIN

1 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: So I will just call the  
2 House Redistricting Committee to order.

3 And if the clerk could please call the  
4 roll.

5 MR. LOWERY: Representative Hernandez.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. LOWERY: Representative Tarver.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. LOWERY: Representative Butler.

10 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Here in Aurora.

11 MR. LOWERY: Representative Bourne.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Here.

13 MR. LOWERY: Representative Burke.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BURKE: Here.

15 MR. LOWERY: Representative Gordon-Booth.

16 REPRESENTATIVE GORDON-BOOTH: Present.

17 MR. LOWERY: Representative Hoffman.

18 (No response.)

19 MR. LOWERY: Representative Mah.

20 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Here.

21 MR. LOWERY: Representative Severin.

22 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: I believe we had a  
23 sub-letter, Representative Mah, for  
24 Representative Keicher in place of

1 Representative Severin.

2 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Okay. So I am in receipt of  
3 a substitution letter from House Minority Leader  
4 for Representative -- I am sorry, hold on. Sorry,  
5 just a minute. My apologies.

6 So I am in receipt of a substitution  
7 letter from Leader Durkin replacing  
8 Representative Severin with  
9 Representative Keicher.

10 And is the clerk finished with roll?

11 MR. LOWERY: My final is Representative Spain.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Ryan Spain is on the  
13 roll. I am here at church, so sorry for being  
14 late.

15 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thank you.

16 MR. LOWERY: We have seven members present.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 With seven members present, we can  
19 proceed.

20 Are there any local legislators  
21 participating?

22 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: So here in Aurora we've  
23 got Representative Barbara Hernandez, who's here  
24 with us, and Representative Maura Hirschauer is

1 with us as well. I'll be happy to recognize them  
2 in my role as spokesperson of the committee.

3 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thank you,  
4 Spokesperson Butler.

5 Okay. So let me just start with our  
6 opening statement.

7 Good afternoon -- well, sorry, good  
8 morning, everyone, and I want to thank everyone  
9 for taking the time to participate in today's  
10 hearing.

11 Earlier this year the House and Senate  
12 Redistricting Committees held approximately 50  
13 public hearings to gather input on redistricting  
14 in Illinois. Based on the input from the public  
15 and the best population data available at the  
16 time, the General Assembly in May passed a  
17 legislative redistricting plan that was signed  
18 into law by the governor as Public Act 102-0010 on  
19 June 4th to comply with the Illinois  
20 constitution's June 30th deadline.

21 At the time the House democrats indicated  
22 we would review the 2020 census data when it was  
23 released this fall to determine if changes should  
24 be made to the map.

1           On August 12, 2021, approximately five  
2 months later than normal, the United States Census  
3 Bureau released the 2020 census population to  
4 Illinois, as well as to the other states.

5           Now that we have the census data, we are  
6 fulfilling our commitment to review the data, seek  
7 additional input from the public, and amend the  
8 redistricting plan to incorporate the latest  
9 census data as needed.

10           The House democrats remain committed to  
11 providing the public with various ways to make  
12 their voices heard, to ensure a fair map that  
13 reflects the broad racial and geographic diversity  
14 of Illinois.

15           The House Redistricting Committee is  
16 again offering virtual hybrid hearings which gives  
17 everyone the opportunity to participate in person  
18 or from the comfort of their own homes. Our staff  
19 notified those individuals in groups, who  
20 submitted testimony in the spring, of these  
21 hearings and invited them again to provide their  
22 thoughts and recommendations.

23           In addition, the map-making portal has  
24 been updated with the census data and again made

1 available to the public to submit proposed maps  
2 and communities of interest for consideration.

3 In addition to the public,  
4 Chair Hernandez, along with Chair Akino  
5 (phonetic), sent letters to republicans inviting  
6 them to testify, provide recommended changes, and  
7 submit proposed maps to the committees. I would  
8 like to reiterate that invitation today.

9 We look forward to gathering feedback as  
10 we consider changes to the legislative plan. We  
11 invite those interested to submit written  
12 testimony by e-mailing the House Redistricting  
13 Committee at [redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov](mailto:redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov).  
14 Everyone is also invited to use the map-making  
15 portal that can be found on the House democrats  
16 redistricting website at  
17 [ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://ilhousedems.com/redistricting).

18 I would like to thank everyone once again  
19 for your time and for your participation in this  
20 important process.

21 And at this time I would like to ask if  
22 the minority spokesperson would like to make some  
23 remarks?

24 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 It's an honor for me to be here in the Aurora area  
2 today for this hearing, the second hearing we've  
3 had in the Aurora area.

4 I will just say that, you know, I think  
5 the notice of these hearings has made it difficult  
6 for the public to participate. This is the fifth  
7 hearing we've held in four days, there's been very  
8 little public participation. The hearing we had  
9 at 10:00 a.m. Friday in Collinsville had no one in  
10 attendance, either virtually or in person. Here,  
11 we have four, five members of the public at least  
12 in person here in Aurora today.

13 And I think this underscores the great  
14 frustration as the advocacy groups have said when  
15 they testified previously, is that the notice to  
16 the public and the chance to review proposed maps  
17 really is absent.

18 We are scheduled to go back into session  
19 a little over 48 -- about 49-and-a-half hours from  
20 now to supposedly vote on maps that we haven't  
21 seen yet, that the public has not seen yet, that  
22 the advocacy groups have not had an opportunity to  
23 even know what the new proposed maps from the  
24 majority are going to be.

1           Beyond that, I know the Chair referenced  
2     the June 30th date. The June 30th date was for  
3     the legislature to act. The constitution spells  
4     out very specific steps to take following  
5     June 30th if the map is not effective, and the  
6     maps that were passed in May are not effective  
7     because we are sitting here today revising the  
8     maps. So if the maps are not effective that were  
9     passed in May, we should be using the bipartisan  
10    commission that is spelled out in the constitution  
11    to draw the maps, but that's not what we are  
12    doing, unfortunately.

13           Additionally, obviously, this is being  
14    litigated, the courts certainly will have a say  
15    once -- once action, I guess, is taken on Tuesday.  
16    This process has been disappointing, to say the  
17    least.

18           I think to schedule hearings at  
19    10:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning, when one of our  
20    members on the committee is actually stepping out  
21    of church to get on, I think it underscores the  
22    fact that the public is not being listened to,  
23    very honestly. There's no reason why we couldn't  
24    have scheduled this at 2:00 p.m. instead of

1 10:00 a.m. on a Sunday, or something like that,  
2 but that's what the majority decided to do.

3 So I'm glad to be joined here today by  
4 Representative Keicher in person as well, and look  
5 forward to whatever testimony we might hear today.

6 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thank you so much,  
7 Spokesperson Butler.

8 Now we have a short presentation from  
9 staff on the redistricting process. So stand by  
10 for that. Thank you.

11 MR. LOWE: I have shared my screen. My name  
12 is Aaron Lowe, I am an employee of the Illinois  
13 House of Representatives, here to give a brief  
14 overview of what 2020 census data released earlier  
15 this month showed for the state overall, as well  
16 as the local region.

17 According to the 2020 census, the state's  
18 population is 12,812,508. This is a decline of  
19 0.14 percent, or 18,124 people, over a 10-year  
20 period. The state's total population, according  
21 to the final 2020 census numbers, was  
22 approximately 0.3 percent above the 2015 to 2019  
23 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates.

24 Statewide, population shifts over the

1 past decade reflected an overall increase in urban  
2 and suburban communities and a declining  
3 population in rural and downstate areas.

4 The state's northeastern counties, Cook  
5 DuPage, Lake, Will, McHenry, Kane, Kendall, and  
6 Grundy, all saw increases in population, with  
7 Kendall County seeing the largest population  
8 increase in the state.

9 While much of downstate lost population,  
10 some areas saw noteworthy increases, such as  
11 Carroll, McClain, Champaign, Effingham, Monroe,  
12 Williamson, and Johnson counties.

13 Counties that saw the biggest declines  
14 were located downstate.

15 Alexander County saw the state's largest  
16 loss of population, while Calhoun, Coles,  
17 Gallatin, Greene, Hardin, Henderson, Jackson,  
18 Mason, McDonough, Pike, and Pulaski Counties saw  
19 double digit losses.

20 Overall, these rural areas in Illinois  
21 were generally overestimated by the 2015 to 2019  
22 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates,  
23 while many urban areas were underestimated.

24 Locally, Kane County's population grew by

1 0.2 percent, while DuPage County grew by 1.7  
2 percent, and Kendall County grew by 14.9 percent.

3 Throughout the suburban region, Lake,  
4 McHenry, and Will Counties all saw population  
5 growth.

6 House Districts 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48,  
7 49, 50, 51, 62, 64, 65, 66, 75, 81, 84, and 97  
8 from the 2011 map saw an increase in population,  
9 while House Districts 43, 52, 61, 63, 70, and 83  
10 saw a decrease in population over the decade.

11 Throughout the Chicago suburbs, white  
12 population decreased over the past decade, while  
13 African-American, Asian, and Hispanic populations  
14 increased.

15 Thank you so much for your attention and  
16 for coming out to share your thoughts today. As  
17 was mentioned earlier, you'll be able to find  
18 hearing information and testimony from this and  
19 other hearings on [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov) --  
20 [ilhousedems.gov/redistricting](http://ilhousedems.gov/redistricting). You can send  
21 further written testimony and suggestions via  
22 e-mail to the House Redistricting Committee at  
23 [redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov](mailto:redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov).

24 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thank you so much.

1           So now we can proceed to testimony from  
2 the witnesses. We have four witness slips that  
3 have been filed, and I will just go ahead and read  
4 those four, and then we will go in the order in  
5 which the names appear.

6           We have Trey Zacha (phonetic)  
7 representing himself, record appearance only.  
8 Aviva Patt, representing The Decalogue Society of  
9 Lawyers, presenting oral and written testimony.  
10 Phyllis Logan, from the NAACP Illinois State  
11 Conference, providing witness -- written  
12 testimony. And then Theresa Johanson representing  
13 herself with oral testimony.

14           And let's go ahead with -- did Trey Zacha  
15 want to present any testimony or is that just  
16 record of appearance only?

17           I apologize. I think that the first  
18 witness with oral testimony is Aviva Patt. Go  
19 ahead. Are you online? I don't see -- I don't  
20 see Aviva Patt online. Is she at the Aurora  
21 location?

22           SPOKESPERSON BUTT: I don't believe so. I see  
23 some heads shaking no.

24           CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Okay. Theresa Johanson is

1 listed as having oral testimony. Is she online or  
2 at the location?

3 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: I don't believe she's  
4 here in Aurora.

5 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Okay. Actually, I see  
6 Representative Keicher with his hand up. Did you  
7 have a question?

8 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: I have a statement,  
9 but I can wait for the witnesses to give testimony  
10 if you'd like.

11 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Okay. Let's just see if we  
12 have any witnesses available to testify.

13 Is there anyone in the waiting room or at  
14 the Aurora location? Okay.

15 MS. BRANDT: No one is in the waiting room.

16 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Seeing none, then I will  
17 recognize Representative Keicher. Go ahead,  
18 please.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Thank you,  
20 Madam Chair.

21 So as I'm sitting here taking a morning  
22 away from church to be in Aurora, which actually  
23 is my family's historical neighborhood, I'm very  
24 proud that my Luxembourg ancestors located to

1 Pigeon Hill here in Aurora in the late 1800s, so  
2 it's kind of nice to be home.

3 As I'm looking at the process that we are  
4 undertaking today, Madam Chair, and I don't know  
5 if you are able to answer this or not, is it fair  
6 to say as the maps as currently in statute are  
7 fundamentally flawed and that's the reason for  
8 these hearings?

9 Sorry, you are still on mute.

10 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: No, I don't believe that.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: So you are suggesting  
12 that the maps as currently filed are not  
13 fundamentally flawed?

14 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: No. We are collecting input  
15 from the public and considering the data that's  
16 been released from the 2020 census.

17 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: And the reason for  
18 that consideration is that the census has revealed  
19 a fundamental flaw in the statutorily-passed maps,  
20 is that accurate?

21 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: No.

22 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: So you are suggesting  
23 that the maps as currently in statute are  
24 fundamentally accurate and appropriate?

1 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Well, we said that we were  
2 going to make adjustments based on community input  
3 and census data that's released.

4 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: So are you suggesting  
5 to me, again, a yes or no answer, please, that the  
6 maps as currently in statute, are they an accurate  
7 representation or not?

8 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: So the census bureau provided  
9 us with the most up-to-date data and we are making  
10 adjustments based on what we received.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: So is it a fair  
12 question to say that the concerns shared by the  
13 House republican in the chamber are, in essence,  
14 validated by these actions today and our trip to  
15 Springfield on Tuesday?

16 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: No.

17 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: That is not accurate.

18 So can you please share with me the  
19 purpose of our trip to Springfield on Tuesday?

20 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Like I said, we are going to  
21 consider the input from the public and the  
22 adjustments that we will be making based on the  
23 census data that's been released.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: So I'm correct to

1 hear that we will consider the public input on  
2 this. Should we expect the same consideration of  
3 public input during the prior hearings as  
4 reflected in the maps presented at the end of May?

5 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: I am sorry, I don't  
6 understand your --

7 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Well, it seems there  
8 were quite a few organizations who gave public  
9 input and there was no consideration given to  
10 their concerns, nor commentary presented  
11 addressing their concerns.

12 Should the public expect that same  
13 reception under the current consideration for our  
14 trip to Springfield on Tuesday?

15 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: The input was all considered.

16 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Has anyone here on  
17 this hearing seen a revised copy of any proposed  
18 map that we will be considering on Tuesday? You  
19 are shaking your head no. Is that a verbal no or  
20 is that --

21 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: I'm saying I haven't seen  
22 anything.

23 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Has anyone on this  
24 hearing? Could you please help me?

1           Let me ask this. Are you aware of any  
2           current revisions that are taking place prior to  
3           the completion of public input per revised set of  
4           maps for us to consider on Tuesday?

5           CHAIRWOMAN MAH: I am not aware, no.

6           REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Now, you had also  
7           indicated that there was a variation in the ACS  
8           data versus census data, and I appreciate that  
9           that concern is finally being validated that we  
10          raised in the spring.

11          I have no more comments at this time.

12          CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thank you.

13          I see Representative Bourne with her hand  
14          raised.

15          REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Yes, but I also saw  
16          that a witness got on Zoom. So if she would like  
17          to testify, I think that would be appropriate.

18          CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Okay, we will go to the  
19          witness then.

20          I see Aviva Patt has just gotten on the  
21          Zoom. And if you are ready to testify, you can  
22          proceed.

23          You are on mute.

24          MS. PATT: Thank you. Yes, I just got the

1 link, by the way, for the meeting, which is why I  
2 was not in when you called me.

3 My name is Aviva Miriam Patt, I am the  
4 executive director of The Decalogue Society of  
5 Lawyers.

6 Decalogue was founded in 1934 and is the  
7 oldest Jewish Bar Association in the country. Our  
8 mission is educating the public on legal and  
9 Jewish issues, maintaining vigilance against  
10 discriminatory public and private practices,  
11 particularly anti-Semitism, and working with other  
12 ethnic communities to combat hate and promote  
13 justice.

14 Thank you for this opportunity to once  
15 again make our case for the creation of a  
16 Jewish-informed representative district. The  
17 Jewish community in Illinois is small, just over  
18 two percent of the population, and widely  
19 dispersed in the Chicago metropolitan area and  
20 throughout the state, but there was one area where  
21 people live in sufficient concentration to make an  
22 influence district possible.

23 We have submitted a map encompassing  
24 those areas of West Rogers Park, Peterson Park,

1 Skokie, and Lincolnwood that are the heart of the  
2 Jewish community in Illinois.

3 Testimony was previously submitted by  
4 AVODAH, a Jewish religious group detailing the  
5 various challenges on community cases, including  
6 the need for religious accommodations and  
7 protection against anti-Semitic hate crimes and  
8 violence.

9 We seek a district in which our community  
10 can have a strong voice in the selection of those  
11 who represent us and the political power to  
12 influence and hold them accountable after  
13 election.

14 At the request to create a  
15 Jewish-enforced district in the only area in the  
16 entire state where it was possible was ignored,  
17 and the heart of the Illinois Jewish community was  
18 eviscerated, sliced into pieces allotted to three  
19 separate districts.

20 When I testified in May, I said we wanted  
21 to know why, and we are still waiting for the  
22 answer.

23 Decalogue asks that the legislature  
24 extend the time for public hearings for at least

1 one and preferably two weeks, with a notice to  
2 everyone who's previously submitted testimony, and  
3 with public postings, and traditional and social  
4 media. This week's hearings was short notice to a  
5 select few and just days after the release of the  
6 census data are not sufficient for nonprofit  
7 organizations that don't have redistricting staff  
8 to draw maps to submit for your consideration.

9 There certainly isn't time for us to  
10 consult with one another, as we did in the spring,  
11 to assess the areas where our communities overlap  
12 and come to a consensus on how we can move diverse  
13 needs.

14 Decalogue also asks for an open mapping  
15 process, allowing the public to know the criteria  
16 the legislature is using to determine district  
17 boundaries. The maps should then be released with  
18 demographic information, something that  
19 inexplicably wasn't done when we were asked to  
20 testify in response to the map that the  
21 legislature passed last -- in May.

22 Finally, we ask for two weeks of hearings  
23 for the public to respond to revised maps before  
24 it's voted on.

1           The rush nature of the maps revision is  
2           mystifying. There have been public comments and  
3           time was short because of the election, but such  
4           comments are disingenuous.

5           In redistricting years, the map was  
6           generally passed on May 31st, approximately 90  
7           days before the first day the petition starts to  
8           be circulated. The first day the petition can be  
9           circulated for the rescheduled 2022 primary was  
10          January 13th. The legislature passed the map as  
11          late as October 14th and still provide same amount  
12          of time for candidates that has existed in every  
13          other restricting year. Democracy demands not  
14          just the appearance of public participation but  
15          the substantive reality.

16          The Decalogue Society of Lawyers asks you  
17          to take advantage of the next six week to create a  
18          genuine need for public participation process  
19          where the voices of all our communities can be  
20          heard.

21                   Thank you very much.

22           CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thank you, Miss Patt.

23                   Now we can go back to Representative --  
24          let me just see if we have any questions for our

1 witness.

2 Spokesperson Butler, go ahead.

3 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Thank you. Thank you,  
4 Chair Mah.

5 Miss Patt, thank you for being here again  
6 today. I know you testified in the spring on  
7 behalf of Decalogue, and I know Rabbi Siroka  
8 testified the other day as well about the  
9 concerns, and with the maps that you proposed and  
10 the concerns of the neighborhoods on the north and  
11 northwest side of Chicago specifically, which  
12 should be included in the district.

13 Do you know, have there -- has your  
14 organization had any discussions with anyone  
15 drawing the maps, whether it's members or staff,  
16 about those concerns, or has anyone reached out to  
17 you to say, hey, how are we going to work this  
18 into a map or anything?

19 MS. PATT: No, no one has. This, of course,  
20 is -- one of the reasons that we are asking for a  
21 more open mapping process is precisely that,  
22 because communities have -- we all have our own  
23 needs and some of those needs, by the way, overlap  
24 with one another. An open mapping process would

1 explain why some of these decisions are made. We  
2 are just left not knowing why, even though we  
3 testified in the spring and, of course, the maps  
4 were not drawn to what we asked for, no one has  
5 explained to us why or reached out to say, "Hey,  
6 what can we do to make this work? How can you  
7 incorporate your map into our map?"

8 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: And your organization,  
9 and certainly Rabbi Siroka, are not unknown  
10 quantities to this -- to this committee.

11 MS. PATT: No.

12 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: You testified multiple  
13 times and still no one has reached out to you to  
14 discuss your concerns. I appreciate your  
15 testimony and I appreciate you coming on again to  
16 give us your views and your thoughts on this.

17 MS. PATT: Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Any other questions of the  
19 witness?

20 Representative Bourne, did you want to  
21 ask a question of the witness?

22 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Yes, briefly. Thank  
23 you.

24 Thank you again for being here with us.

1 I heard you say, obviously, there was short notice  
2 for all of us, but you said short notice to a  
3 select few. Can you share with us how you found  
4 out about the hearing?

5 MS. PATT: I found out about it from the  
6 redistricting -- the change along redistricting  
7 committee that I am a part of actually for a  
8 different organization. I was kind of surprised  
9 that there would be hearings and people who  
10 testified last time would not be notified, like  
11 Decalogue Society testified in May, and yet we got  
12 no notice that, hey, there's going to be another  
13 opportunity for you to speak.

14 And that's one of the reasons that we are  
15 submitting so late, because by the time we found  
16 out and then, of course, I have to go through -- I  
17 have to write testimony, I have to submit it for  
18 approval, then, of course, the joint hearing was  
19 yesterday on the Jewish Sabbath, so we couldn't  
20 testify, you know. So if it had not been for this  
21 meeting today, we would not have had a voice at  
22 all.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate that.

24 We heard in a previous committee hearing

1 this week that House democratic staff, or  
2 somebody, had reached out to people to testify,  
3 and so it's interesting to me that you were not  
4 reached out to, and I apologize for that, I wish  
5 that everybody would have gotten more notice and  
6 would have way more time to do this.

7 I do have a question for the Chair about  
8 that. Was -- did democratic staff reach out to  
9 those who testified previously, was that your  
10 intention, or was public posting the outreach that  
11 was done?

12 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: From my understanding, all of  
13 the witnesses who testified recently received  
14 notice. That's my understanding.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. I mean, we've  
16 heard here that that's not the case. And so I am  
17 just really interested to find out who all was  
18 contacted to give feedback in this because as  
19 we've heard today, and yesterday, and the day  
20 before, a lot of organizations who submitted  
21 testimony don't feel their testimony was included  
22 in the previous map and want to know if their  
23 testimony from the previous map to now is going to  
24 be taken into account in this new map that you

1 don't even acknowledge as happening on Tuesday?

2 So I think that this goes to the heart of  
3 the issue here with the lack of trust the public  
4 has that this even matters, that they are here.

5 So thank you for testifying. I am glad  
6 you found out about it. I am sorry that more  
7 people didn't.

8 MS. PATT: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Again, my understanding is  
10 all the previous witnesses were reached out to and  
11 notified and in addition, you know, all the  
12 testimony so far is part of the public record and,  
13 you know, should be part of, you know, whatever is  
14 considered, you know, that's the purpose of these  
15 hearings.

16 So let me just go to another committee  
17 member. Representative Keicher, did you have a  
18 question of the witness?

19 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: I do. Thank you,  
20 Madam Chair.

21 And, Miss Patt, thank you very much for  
22 attending today. I appreciate the work that you  
23 are doing and the advocacy on behalf of those you  
24 serve.

1 I would, perhaps, suggest to you, as  
2 we've heard a little bit earlier, that there is no  
3 fundamental flaw in the earlier maps, so perhaps  
4 the reason we didn't notify anybody as a committee  
5 is that that didn't need to be taken into  
6 consideration. Of course, that's tongue in cheek,  
7 I appreciate that.

8 You did mention earlier that you were  
9 advocating for at least a two-week delay so that  
10 additional input could be taken and considered.  
11 Can you share with me why that period of time is  
12 appropriate?

13 MS. PATT: Yes, because, again, we need to  
14 confer with other organizations. What we  
15 submitted was -- from our organization was the  
16 concentration of Jewish residents in those areas,  
17 in those neighborhoods, in those suburbs, but the  
18 Jewish community is intermingled very much with  
19 the Muslim community and the Asian community in  
20 all of those areas, and where their concentration  
21 might be could be different than where ours are.

22 I know, for instance, in West Rogers Park  
23 where we drew the line on Western, if one were to  
24 go further east, one could pick up more of the

1 east Asian community, which also is -- overlaps  
2 with the Muslim community there. And on the  
3 northwest boundary of the area that we indicated,  
4 again reaching out further west, would probably  
5 pick up more of the Muslim and Asian community.

6 And we would want the opportunity to sit  
7 down with these other community partners and say,  
8 you know, here's our -- where our people are,  
9 where do yours map, and see if we can come to some  
10 agreement of how to accommodate everybody.

11 And I have to say that the map that was  
12 drawn in May divides up all three of our  
13 communities that way. So that's one reason we  
14 would have to have more time.

15 And then also just the timing of this,  
16 you know, being the last week of August, I know in  
17 some organizations the people who are working on  
18 this were actually on vacation and I'm sure that  
19 other organizations had the same process Decalogue  
20 had that, well, I just can't say, oh, there's a  
21 hearing out there and I'll testify, we have an  
22 approval process that has to go through for  
23 people, for our officers, for our executives.

24 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Well, let me ask you

1 an additional question, if I can.

2 Are you aware of any reason why --  
3 Tuesday is the date and there's -- any reason why  
4 we cannot wait for two weeks longer until those  
5 organizations have been given the opportunity to  
6 give commentary and input?

7 MS. PATT: No, I cannot think of any reason.  
8 As I said in my testimony, there's ample time  
9 because of the schedule -- for the rescheduled  
10 primary, we've got until October 14th to give the  
11 same amount of time that candidates have every  
12 year between when a map was released and when they  
13 have to file -- the first day they can file their  
14 petition.

15 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Let me also ask, I  
16 know you had mentioned that you had heard from  
17 another organization that you belong to about the  
18 hearing today. Would you suggest that your  
19 experience in receiving notification in  
20 consideration of the concerns you raised is  
21 reflective of other organizations that seek to  
22 have input on this process?

23 MS. PRATT: You know, I really have not had a  
24 chance to talk to other organizations, so I can't

1 make that statement.

2 REPRESENTATIVE KEICHER: Okay. Thank you very  
3 much for the work you do and being here today.

4 MS. PRATT: Thank you very much for hearing  
5 us.

6 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thank you so much, Miss Patt  
7 and Representative Keicher.

8 Are there any other members seeking  
9 recognition with questions for the witness?

10 Okay. Are there any additional witnesses  
11 that have shown up to the Aurora location?

12 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: No, I don't believe  
13 there's anyone here that's here to testify.

14 So I would like to -- before you wrap,  
15 Madam Chair, I would like to ask a few questions.

16 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Go ahead.

17 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Representative Mah, do  
18 we know what the schedule will be for this  
19 committee? We're scheduled to go back to  
20 Springfield on Tuesday. I just did a quick  
21 cursory glance at the legislative website, I see  
22 no hearings posted for legislation. The Rules  
23 Committee is not scheduled to meet where a bill  
24 potentially would be kicked out of. Do we know

1 when this committee will meet again and what the  
2 plan is for the next two days?

3 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: I -- I don't know.

4 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Okay. Do we -- do we  
5 have any indication whatsoever when the revisions  
6 to these maps that the majority has spoken about  
7 will be introduced so the public can see them?

8 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: That I don't know either.

9 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: All right. You know,  
10 this -- again, this underscores the concerns that  
11 we just heard from the witness, and I think  
12 Miss Patt makes a very good point, you know, those  
13 of us who are legislatures, we can show up to  
14 these things, we can talk, we don't need approval  
15 for our remarks, per se. Organizations like hers  
16 have a process often to go through to formulate  
17 positions. This is -- this is a process that does  
18 not allow proper participation from the public,  
19 and it's really a disgrace for the process, to be  
20 honest for you. We should be much better than  
21 this.

22 There's no sense of urgency, like we see  
23 with the legislative maps, for the congressional  
24 maps. We have yet to see anything to do with the

1 congressional maps. Yet, we have this sense of  
2 urgency somehow that we need to pass these revised  
3 legislative maps on Tuesday. I hazard a guess  
4 that has more to do with depositions in a court  
5 case than anything else, unfortunately, instead of  
6 respecting the process and, honestly, respecting  
7 the constitution, which spells out we should be  
8 doing this a different way than we are doing it  
9 today right now.

10 I know Representative Bourne -- I see  
11 Representative Bourne's hand up, I think she has a  
12 couple of questions.

13 But, Madam Chair, if you, or  
14 Chair Hernandez, or staff, or someone could  
15 respond to me by five o'clock today, I would  
16 really appreciate to know what the schedule is for  
17 the 177 legislators that are supposed to be back  
18 in Springfield two days from now, so we can know,  
19 and certainly the public can know, what the plan  
20 is going to be, and certainly what the maps are  
21 going to be that we are potentially going to vote  
22 on on Tuesday. So I would respectfully request  
23 those answers by five o'clock today.

24 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: We appreciate your input and

1 we will do our best. I, you know, obviously can't  
2 make any promises, but we will do our best to get  
3 you the information.

4 So now I would like to recognize  
5 Representative Bourne.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you.

7 I just wanted to follow up, I didn't want  
8 to take up time with the witness, but I have a  
9 couple more questions about who was invited to  
10 these hearings.

11 To your knowledge, has anybody from the  
12 governor's office been invited to testify at these  
13 committees?

14 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: I don't know. I don't have  
15 an answer to that.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. And I know that  
17 we invited them last time, I don't know if they  
18 were invited by the majority staff when we were  
19 considering the map that you passed previously.

20 Do you know, has anybody from the  
21 governor's office been in conversations with your  
22 caucus or the senate democratic caucus about the  
23 revisions to the map?

24 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: I do not know.

1 CHAIRWOMAN BOURNE: Okay. So are you, and by  
2 "you" I mean those drafting the maps, assuming  
3 that the governor's office will sign whatever maps  
4 are drawn and voted on by the majority?

5 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: I don't have that  
6 information.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. Okay. I  
8 just -- I just think it's interesting that there  
9 is another party at play here, one who has said  
10 that he's opposed to a process that's done with  
11 backroom deals by politicians. He already signed  
12 one map that went against his promise. And I am  
13 wondering if you all are concerned that this is  
14 even more of a sham process than originally I  
15 think was even considered? So I just thought it  
16 would be very interesting to have them here and to  
17 know if they are being involved at all in the  
18 revisions that your side is allegedly making. So  
19 I would be interested to have them testify, if  
20 there is to be a hearing on this in Springfield,  
21 and I would request that you all invite them.

22 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Your request has been noted  
23 and thank you for your input.

24 So are there any -- any final questions

1 of the witness or closing remarks from the  
2 spokesperson -- minority spokesperson?

3 SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Sure. Thank you,  
4 Madam Chair.

5 I just again checked the website and I  
6 see there are four committee hearings posted --  
7 subject matter hearings posted for September 1st,  
8 but again nothing -- subject matter hearings,  
9 nothing posted for redistricting moving forward  
10 after this hearing today on the process that we  
11 are supposed to be -- supposedly voting on maps on  
12 Tuesday.

13 I want to reiterate what I opened with at  
14 the hearing at the Bilandic Building on Thursday.  
15 I had a hearing at the Bilandic Building on  
16 Wednesday for another committee, I walked into the  
17 offices adjacent to that hearing room, the  
18 majority offices, as I often do when I'm at the  
19 Bilandic Building, to say hello to my colleagues,  
20 or talk to staff, or pick up a bottle of water in  
21 those offices, and what I witnessed firsthand was  
22 several -- several members of the majority party  
23 in there looking at laptops where I physically saw  
24 with my own eyes actual maps being discussed with

1 the members of your party, of the majority, and  
2 including one member whose staff told him, well,  
3 Representative, that's as square as we can make  
4 your district. That's what I witnessed firsthand.

5 These maps are being drawn currently with  
6 the input only from the members of the majority.  
7 None of the advocacy groups have been invited into  
8 those meetings after repeated, for months,  
9 repeated, please to be involved with the process.  
10 And I think that's really what the public needs to  
11 know.

12 This is an insider process where the maps  
13 are being drawn for the benefit of the majority,  
14 and after so many of us in the legislature have  
15 either voted on or made pledges to support a  
16 nonpartisan public process, and that's been thrown  
17 out the window.

18 And my hope is that the maps that pass --  
19 well, actually, I hope the maps don't pass on  
20 Tuesday. I hope that there's enough members of  
21 the majority that look within themselves to know  
22 that this is a sham process, to know that they  
23 support a process that is more involved with the  
24 public, that doesn't allow politicians to draw the

1 maps. That's the way to do it.

2 And I would urge the majority to look at  
3 their own votes, and their own statements, and  
4 their own support for an independent process of  
5 the map. Over 30 members of the house majority,  
6 of the house democrats, have voted for a  
7 constitutional limit for an independent  
8 commission, including the speaker himself.

9 And I would ask that you live up to your  
10 word come Tuesday and do not vote to approve  
11 whatever maps we have yet to see, but somehow we  
12 will see before we convene on Tuesday.

13 Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 CHAIRWOMAN MAH: Thanks for your input,  
15 Representative Butler and for everyone who took  
16 the time today to participate in this hearing,  
17 both online and at the site in Aurora.

18 I'd like to reiterate that the portal is  
19 open for maps submissions from the public and any  
20 input testimony that folks would like to have  
21 included. Again, the e-mail -- or the  
22 redistricting website is  
23 [ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://ilhousedems.com/redistricting).

24 I really would like to again thank

1 everyone for your time in participating this  
2 morning. At this time we can recess to the call  
3 of the Chair.

4 Thank you so much, everyone. Have a  
5 great Sunday.

6 (The Redistricting Committee Hearing  
7 concluded at 11:02 a.m.)

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1 I, PAMELA S. MORGAN, Certified Shorthand  
2 Reporter in the State of Illinois, do hereby  
3 certify that the Redistricting Committee Meeting  
4 was recorded stenographically by me and was  
5 reduced to typewritten form by means of  
6 Computer-Aided Transcription.

7 I further certify that the foregoing  
8 transcript is a true, correct, and complete record  
9 of the testimony given and of all proceedings had  
10 before me.

11 I further certify that I am not a relative,  
12 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the  
13 parties, nor financially interested directly or  
14 indirectly in this action.

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19 PAMELA S. MORGAN, C.S.R. 084-001687

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